

Hurley Park Woodland has a mature canopy of bur, white, and black oaks. Mowing and clearing had degenerated the understory of the site, but in 1996, staff from the Morton Arboretum joined forces with the Chicago Park District and a group of volunteers to restore the small woods.

Native grasses and sedges such as Canada wild rye, woodland brome, and common wood sedge were planted. Wild columbine blooms in May, and asters, joe pye weed, and goldenrod bloom in the late summer and early fall. A few shrubs such as hazelnut and New Jersey tea were planted.

It's worth taking a larger view of the surroundings when visiting Hurley Park Woodland. A glance up the street in either direction shows the stretches the oak savanna and woodland once occupied; almost every front yard of every house, as far as the eye can see, has a bur or white oak in it. This is not a case of coincidental landscaping. The trees pre-date the houses; at one time, the plants found in the understory at Hurley Park Woodland would have been present in those yards.

Hurley Park Woodland sits atop the crest of what geologists call the "Park Ridge moraine." The incline results from a huge deposit of material by a glacier 14,000 years ago or more. The topography of this area has more in common with Chicago's North Shore suburbs than it does with other sections of the city; the North Shore's hills and ravines are from similar causes. Like Hurley Park Woodland and much of the Beverly neighborhood, the North Shore would have been above water for many thousands of years while the remainder of Chicago was still underwater in a vast glacial lake. (Raymond Wiggers, *Geology Underfoot in Illinois*. Mountain Press Publishing, 1997)

Two other city natural areas are located within this same morainal structure, the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve (site 17, p. 48) and Ridge Park Wetlands (site 70, p. 109). For more on the geology, see the entry for Dan Ryan Forest Preserve.

HURLEY PARK WOODLAND

Site No 37



10000 SOUTH / 1800 WEST



Hurley Park Woodland

N: 37



ADDRESS 1801 W 100th
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 0.57

HABITATS
1 Forest/ Woodland

DIRECTIONS From 99th Street, take Winchester south one block. Hurley Park Woodland is on the southeast corner of 100th Street and Winchester.

Hurley Park Woodland

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005